

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-14. Cancelled.

15. (Withdrawn) A method for treating, reducing, or preventing a cardiac disorder in a mammal, said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of FADD or an anti-inflammatory FADD inhibitor.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said cardiac disorder is a result of a chronic ischemia injury, an acute ischemia injury, an ischemia-reperfusion injury, a myocardial infarction, myocarditis, heart failure, cardiac transplantation, or an autoimmune disorder.

17-19. Cancelled.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said anti-inflammatory FADD inhibitor is a nucleic acid encoding a dominant negative FADD protein.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said mammal is a human.

22-28. Cancelled.

29. (Currently amended) A human cardiomyocyte expressing a recombinant dominant negative FADD protein, wherein said expression is capable of preventing or reducing inflammation.

30. (Withdrawn) A human cardiomyocyte expressing a recombinant FADD protein.

31-41. Cancelled.

42. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying a candidate compound for treating, reducing, or preventing cardiac inflammation in a mammal, said method comprising:

(a) contacting a cardiomyocyte expressing a FADD gene with a candidate compound; and

(b) measuring FADD gene expression or FADD protein activity in said a cardiomyocyte, a candidate compound that reduces said expression or said activity, relative to FADD expression or activity in a cardiomyocyte not contacted with said candidate compound, identifying said candidate compound as a candidate compound useful for treating, reducing, or preventing cardiac inflammation.

43-44. Cancelled.

45. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying a candidate compound for treating, reducing, or preventing a cardiac disorder, said method comprising:

(a) contacting a cardiomyocyte expressing a FADD gene with a candidate compound; and

(b) measuring FADD gene expression or FADD protein activity in said a cardiomyocyte, a candidate compound that reduces said expression or said activity, relative to FADD expression or activity in a cardiomyocyte not contacted with said candidate compound, identifying said candidate compound as a candidate compound useful for treating, reducing, or preventing said cardiac disorder.

46. (Withdrawn) The method of any one of claims 42 or 45, wherein said FADD gene is a FADD fusion gene.

47. (Withdrawn) The method of any one of claims 42 or 45, wherein step (b) comprises measuring expression of FADD mRNA or protein.

48. (Withdrawn) The method of any one of claims 42 or 45, wherein said cardiomyocyte is a mammalian cell.

49. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 48, wherein said mammalian cell is a rodent cell.

50. Cancelled.

51. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying a candidate compound for treating, reducing, or preventing cardiac inflammation, said method comprising:

- (a) contacting FADD protein with a candidate compound; and
- (b) determining whether said candidate compound binds said FADD protein, a candidate compound that binds said FADD protein being a candidate compound useful for treating, reducing, or preventing cardiac inflammation.

52-53. Cancelled.

54. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying a candidate compound for treating, reducing, or preventing cardiac disorder, said method comprising:

- (a) contacting FADD protein with a candidate compound; and
- (b) determining whether said candidate compound binds said FADD protein, a candidate compound that binds said FADD protein being a candidate compound useful for treating, reducing, or preventing said cardiac disorder.

55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42, 45, 51, or 54, wherein said FADD is human FADD.

56-64. Cancelled.